

LINCOLN COUNTY FAIR
2026 MARKET CATTLE & HEIFERS RULES AND REGULATIONS
Barn Chair: Danny Ryan 636-299-2184

1. Weigh-in of market calves will be **Saturday, February 14, 2026**, at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds from 8 am to 10 am. If exhibiting at the Missouri State Fair, the animal will need to have a hair sample taken for the State Fair.
2. No vaccinations or implants will be available at weigh-in. Calves will be weighed and ear tagged only. Absolutely no one will be allowed in the chute during weigh-in of calves for safety reasons.
3. Exhibitors may weigh-in up to three (3) animals in February.
4. Calves should be born on or after January 1 of the previous year and owned by the exhibitor on or before the February weigh-in. Calves will be subject to mouthing at the fair weigh-in to check for age. The calves must have a full set of baby teeth.
5. Calves must be dehorned before the February weigh-in date to be eligible to enter and show.
6. Minimum starting weight for calves will be 600 pounds at February weigh-in. This rule will be strictly enforced.
7. Exhibitors are allowed to register and show two entries in the market calf class at the Lincoln County Fair.
8. Lincoln County Fair tags must be present at final weigh-in. Lost ear tags must be reported immediately to the chairman.
9. Minimum weight to sell at the fair is 1000 pounds and will be strictly enforced. Calves will be shown on Wednesday at 8pm or at the conclusion of the market lamb show.
10. Upon arrival at the fairgrounds, do not unload until you have had your animal checked by the barn chair. Animals must have a 840 tag, fair tag and health papers not older than 30 days from the date of our fair.
11. Calves may arrive on Monday from 6pm until 8pm. Fair weigh-in will begin at 6pm. The exhibitor or a family member must be present at the cattle weigh-in to bring the animal to the scale area and return the animal to tie. An exhibitors meeting will be held following weigh-in on Monday. All exhibitors must attend this meeting.
12. All exhibitors will be responsible for the care of their animals and for the cleanliness of pens.
13. Calves will be broken into classes to be shown by weight. No minimum number will be required for a class.
14. No unethical fitting practices permitted under the discretion of the committee. Violation of this rule will constitute immediate forfeiture of participation at the Lincoln County Fair.
15. The use of artificial tail fins or the addition of hair or hair-like substance to the animal's body will not be permitted.
16. No ice, ice water or alcohol may be used externally or internally as a fitting practice for the 4-H/FFA calves.
17. No artificial fitting of any cattle will be allowed. No pumps will be allowed. Violation of this rule will constitute immediate forfeiture of participation at the Lincoln County Fair.
18. Animals are to be clipped and groomed by the 4-H or FFA cattle exhibitor with assistance from the immediate family or other Lincoln County 4-H or FFA cattle exhibitors only.
19. Exhibitors must be an active participant in the grooming procedures.

20. Fitting is allowed in designated barn areas only. Animals are not allowed to leave the designated barn area.
21. Once a market calf has been led into the show holding area, no additional clipping or grooming by show assistants will be allowed. The class closes when the first animal on the class list enters the ring.
22. No premiums are paid for live placing of market animals.
23. Showing:
- a. All 4-H/FFA shows will have an exhibitor meeting prior to the show.
 - b. All market calves must be halter broke. Any animal which shows evidence of being unmanageable may be dismissed from the ring at the discretion of the superintendent.
 - c. Exhibitors must exhibit their animals. Barn Chairman may permit another Lincoln County junior exhibitor to show an animal in case of illness or physical handicap.
 - d. After a class has been placed in the show ring, officials, including the judge, reserve the right to re-inspect any animal.
24. The members of the cattle barn committee have set up the following meetings for the year:
- a. Required annual cattle meeting will be held on **January 13, 2026**, at 7:00 pm at the Fairgrounds.
25. As part of the Livestock Exhibitor Agreement, every exhibitor is responsible for working a minimum of one (1) work night per livestock project area (as an example; if you are in more than one livestock project, i.e., cattle and lambs, you will be responsible for working on the cattle work night and on the lamb work night), **as well as the mandatory cleanup on July 19, 2026**. The work night scheduled by your 4-H club or FFA Chapter does not count as a livestock work night as it is counted as a club meeting night to meet the requirement for club attendance. Work nights will be established for the market calf project. The work night for cattle is June 18, 2026, at 6pm. **Exhibitors not attending and participating in the workday and mandatory cleanup may forfeit the privilege of showing at next year's fair.**
26. Every exhibitor is required to attend and work cleanup after the end of the fair, July 19, 2025, starting at 9am. Each exhibitor will be responsible for cleaning out their own stall. No skid loaders will be provided for use. **Exhibitors not attending and participating in cleanup may forfeit the privilege of showing at next year's fair.**
27. Show Me Quality Assurance (SMQA) training will be required for exhibitors to participate in the Lincoln County Fair. **All first-year exhibitors are required to complete Show ME Quality Assurance (SMQA) training, regardless of age.** Youth who have previously taken and passed the 20 or 30 question PQA exam are SMQA certified and will not need further certification for the duration of their youth exhibition career. Other youth will need to attend a SMQA training session in each of two years to become SMQA certified and maybe a recertification after the age of 14. Members will be notified of status for SMQA. If you are not sure of your SMQA status, contact the University of Missouri Extension Office at 636-528-4613.
28. **All market cattle must be removed from the barns by 9am Friday morning unless they are staying for the breed show.**